

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end[[:]],

said first end being adapted to receive the penetrating member;

a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum;

an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to [[the]] said piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body[[:]], wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body;

a latching mechanism ~~wherein said latching mechanism adapted to~~ releasably ~~engages~~ engage said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body; and

a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into [[said]] the stratum corneum.

Claim 2. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end[[:]],

said first end being adapted to receive the penetrating member;

a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum;

an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to [[the]] said piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body[[:]], wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body;

a latching mechanism ~~wherein said latching mechanism~~ adapted to releasably engages
engage said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said
body;

a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact
spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into
[[said]] the stratum corneum; and

wherein said body and piston are adapted to be releasably engaged by the use of a single
hand.

Claim 3. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a penetrating member against the
stratum corneum, comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end[[;]],

said first end being adapted to receive the penetrating member;

a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against
the stratum corneum;

an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to [[the]] said piston and bias said
piston out of said first end of said body[[;]], wherein said impact spring is energized when said
piston is further disposed within said body;

a latching mechanism ~~wherein said latching mechanism~~ adapted to releasably engages
engage said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said
body;

a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact
spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into
[[said]] the stratum corneum; and

wherein [[the]] said latching mechanism includes interengaging latch members disposed
on [[the]] said body and piston.

Claim 4. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a penetrating member against the
stratum corneum, comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end[[;]],

said first end being adapted to receive the penetrating member;

a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against
the stratum corneum;

an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to ~~[[the]]~~ said piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body~~[[;]]~~, wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body;

a latching mechanism ~~wherein said latching mechanism~~ adapted to releasably engages engage said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body;

a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into ~~[[said]]~~ the stratum corneum; and

a flexible finger disposed on said body and a stop disposed on said piston, wherein said flexible finger and said stop comprise said interengaging latch members.

Claim 5. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end~~[[;]]~~,

said first end being adapted to receive the penetrating member;

a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum;

an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to ~~[[the]]~~ said piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body~~[[;]]~~, wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body;

a latching mechanism ~~wherein said latching mechanism~~ adapted to releasably engages engage said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body; and

a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into ~~[[said]]~~ the stratum corneum~~[[; and]]~~,

wherein said releasing mechanism is adapted to release said piston after a force is exerted upon said releasing mechanism.

Claim 6. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end[[:]],

said first end being adapted to receive the penetrating member;

a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum;

an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to [[the]] said piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body[[:]], wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body;

a latching mechanism ~~wherein said latching mechanism~~ adapted to releasably ~~engages~~ engage said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body; and

a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into [[said]] the stratum corneum[[:]].

wherein said releasing mechanism is adapted to release said piston after a force is exerted upon said releasing mechanism[[:]], and wherein said latching mechanism and said piston releasing mechanism are adapted to allow one handed operation of each mechanism.

Claim 7. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end[[:]].

said first end being adapted to receive the penetrating member;

a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum;

an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to [[the]] said piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body[[:]], wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body;

a latching mechanism ~~wherein said latching mechanism~~ adapted to releasably ~~engages~~ engage said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body;

a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into [[said]] the stratum corneum; and

a cap movably mounted on said body for activating [[the]] said releasing mechanism when said cap is moved [[onto]] on said body[; and]], wherein said releasing mechanism is adapted to release said piston after a force is exerted upon said releasing mechanism.

Claim 8. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end[;],

said first end being adapted to receive the penetrating member;

a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum;

an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to [[the]] said piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body[;], wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body;

5 a latching mechanism ~~wherein said latching mechanism adapted to releasably engages~~ engage said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body;

a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into [[said]] the stratum corneum; and

a cap movably mounted on said body for activating [[the]] said releasing mechanism when said cap is moved [[onto]] on said body[; and]], wherein said releasing mechanism is adapted to release said piston after a force is exerted upon said releasing mechanism; and

a hold down spring disposed between [[the]] said body and [[the]] said cap for resisting the activation of [[the]] said release mechanism until said hold down spring has been sufficiently energized such that said hold down spring exerts a predetermined hold down force.

Claim 9. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end[;],

said first end being adapted to receive the penetrating member;

a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum;

an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to [[the]] said piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body[[:]], wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body;

a latching mechanism ~~wherein said latching mechanism~~ adapted to releasably ~~engages~~ engage said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body;

a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into [[said]] the stratum corneum;

a cap movably mounted on said body for activating [[the]] said releasing mechanism when said cap is moved [[onto]] on said body[[: and]], wherein said releasing mechanism is adapted to release said piston after a force is exerted upon said releasing mechanism; and

a lock mechanism for preventing movement of said cap relative to said body whereby activation of [[the]] said release mechanism is prevented.

Claim 10. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end[[:]],

said first end being adapted to receive the penetrating member;

a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum;

an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to [[the]] said piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body[[:]], wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body;

a latching mechanism ~~wherein said latching mechanism~~ adapted to releasably ~~engages~~ engage said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body;

a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into [[said]] the stratum corneum;

a cap movably mounted on said body for activating ~~[[the]]~~ said releasing mechanism when said cap is moved ~~[[onto]]~~ on said body~~[[; and]]~~, wherein said releasing mechanism is adapted to release said piston after a force is exerted upon said releasing mechanism;

a lock mechanism for preventing movement of said cap relative to said body whereby activation of ~~[[the]]~~ said release mechanism is prevented; and

an indicator for indicating when said cap is in said locked position.

Claim 11. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end ~~[[;]]~~,

said first end being adapted to receive the penetrating member;

a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum;

an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to ~~[[the]]~~ said piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body~~[[;]]~~, wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body;

a latching mechanism ~~wherein said latching mechanism~~ adapted to releasably engages engage said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body; and

a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into ~~[[said]]~~ the stratum corneum~~[[; and]]~~,

wherein said latching mechanism automatically locks said piston in a cocked position with respect to said body when said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body.

Claim 12. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end ~~[[;]]~~,

said first end being adapted to receive the penetrating member;

a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum;

an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to ~~[[the]]~~ said piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body~~[[;]]~~, wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body;

a latching mechanism ~~wherein said latching mechanism~~ adapted to releasably engages engage said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body; and

a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into ~~[[said]]~~ the stratum corneum~~[[; and]]~~.

wherein said piston includes an application surface having a shape and size ~~which provides for an effective application of the specific patch~~ that is adapted to cooperate with the specific penetrating member to be impacted.

Claim 13. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end~~[[;]]~~,

said first end being adapted to receive the penetrating member;

a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum~~[[;]]~~, said piston including an application surface having a shape selected from the group consisting of a convex shape, a substantially planar shape and a shape configured to mate with a predetermined body surface site;

an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to ~~[[the]]~~ said piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body~~[[;]]~~, wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body;

a latching mechanism ~~wherein said latching mechanism~~ adapted to releasably engages engage said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body; and

a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into said stratum corneum~~[[;]]~~

~~said piston further includes an application surface having a shape and size which provides for an effective application of the specific patch to be impacted; and~~

~~wherein said application surface has a shape selected from the group consisting of a convex shape, a substantially planar shape and a shape configured to mate with a predetermined body surface site.~~

Claim 14. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a microblade array against the stratum corneum, ~~the device~~ comprising:

a device body;

a piston mounted within the device body, ~~[[the]]~~ said piston having a microblade array applying surface;

an impact spring acting between ~~[[the]]~~ said device body and ~~[[the]]~~ said piston to impact the stratum corneum with the microblade;

a cap movably mounted on ~~[[the]]~~ said device body;

a hold down spring acting between ~~[[the]]~~ said device body and ~~[[the]]~~ said cap;

a latching mechanism for locking ~~[[the]]~~ said piston in a cocked position with one hand by compressing ~~[[the]]~~ said device body and piston together; and

a piston release for releasing ~~[[the]]~~ said piston from ~~[[the]]~~ said cocked position to impact the stratum corneum with ~~[[the]]~~ said microblade array when ~~[[the]]~~ said hold down spring is compressed.

Claim 15. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a microblade array against the stratum corneum, ~~the device~~ comprising:

a device body;

a piston mounted within the device body, ~~[[the]]~~ said piston having a microblade array applying surface;

an impact spring acting between ~~[[the]]~~ said device body and ~~[[the]]~~ said piston to impact the stratum corneum with the microblade;

a cap movably mounted on ~~[[the]]~~ said device body;

a hold down spring acting between ~~[[the]]~~ said device body and ~~[[the]]~~ said cap;

a latching mechanism for locking ~~[[the]]~~ said piston in a cocked position with one hand by compressing ~~[[the]]~~ said device body and piston together; and

a piston release ~~comprising a release finger~~ for releasing ~~[[the]]~~ said piston from ~~[[the]]~~ said cocked position to impact the stratum corneum with ~~[[the]]~~ said microblade array when ~~[[the]]~~ said hold down spring is compressed, said piston release comprising a release finger.

Claim 16. (Canceled)

Claim 17. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a microblade array against the stratum corneum, ~~the device~~ comprising:

a device body;

a piston mounted within [[the]] said device body, [[the]] said piston having a microblade array applying surface;

an impact spring acting between [[the]] said device body and [[the]] said piston to impact the stratum corneum with [[the]] said microblade array;

a cap movably mounted on [[the]] said device body;

a hold down spring acting between [[the]] said device body and [[the]] said cap, said hold down spring being adapted to resist the activation of [[the]] said piston release until a predetermined hold down force is reached;

a latching mechanism for locking [[the]] said piston in a cocked position with one hand by compressing [[the]] said device body and said piston together; and

a piston release for releasing [[the]] said piston from [[the]] said cocked position to impact the stratum corneum with [[the]] said microblade array when [[the]] said hold down spring is compressed.

Claim 18. (Currently amended) A method of cocking a device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an impacting device having a device body and a piston;

moving [[a]] said piston to a cocked position with respect to [[a]] said device body; and

locking [[the]] said piston in [[the]] said cocked position, whereby [[the]] said device can be cocked and locked using only one hand.

Claim 19. (Currently amended) A method of cocking a device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an impacting device having a device body and a piston;

moving [[a]] said piston to a cocked position by moving [[the]] said piston along the axis of [[the]] said device body; and

locking said piston in [[the]] said cocked position, wherein the device can be cocked and locked using only one hand.

Claim 20. (Currently amended) A method of cocking a device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, the method comprising the steps of:
providing an impacting device having a device body and a piston;
moving [[a]] said piston to a cocked position with respect to [[a]] said device body; and
locking [[the]] said piston in [[the]] said cocked position, whereby [[the]] said device can be cocked and automatically locked using only one hand.

Claim 21. (Currently amended) A method of cocking a device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, the method comprising the steps of:
providing an impacting device having a device body and a piston;
moving [[a]] said piston to a cocked position with respect to [[a]] said device body; and
locking [[the]] said piston in [[the]] said cocked position, whereby [[the]] said device can be cocked and manually locked using only one hand.

Claim 22. (Currently amended) A method of impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an impacting device having a device body, a piston, and an impact spring;
cocking [[the]] said impacting device using only one hand by moving [[the]] said piston and [[the]] said device body together to a cocked position and locking [[the]] said piston in [[the]] said cocked position;

providing a penetrating member;
mounting said penetrating member on said piston; and
releasing said piston to impact the penetrating member against the stratum corneum.

Applicants accordingly respectfully request examination and consideration of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments.

Respectfully submitted,
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